

## Part 4

Read the article and answer the questions. Write a maximum of five words for each answer. An example is done for you.

### What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a common problem. About 10% of the population is affected by dyslexia to some degree. No one knows exactly what causes dyslexia, although it tends to run in families. It is known that there are several genes that contribute to a genetic risk of dyslexia. It might also be caused by brain injuries or developmental problems. The word Dyslexia probably refers to many different conditions with different causes.

Dyslexia is often thought to be simply a problem with reading but this is not the case. Many dyslexic people learn to read but have continuing difficulties with spelling, writing and memory and organisation of language. There are also people whose difficulties with reading are not caused by dyslexia. Dyslexia often causes problems in maths too: many dyslexic people can have difficulties with arithmetic and with remembering number sequences.

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty that mainly affects reading and spelling. Its effects may be seen in spoken language as well as written language. The current evidence suggests that these difficulties come from problems in language-processing areas in the left hemisphere of the brain which, in turn, appear to be linked to genetic differences. It does tend to run in families. However, dyslexia is not related to intelligence, race or social background. It varies in severity and often occurs alongside other learning difficulties, resulting in differences in the individuals' strengths and weaknesses.

The degree to which dyslexia causes problems, in learning and in everyday life, depends on many factors. These include the severity of the dyslexia, the other strengths and abilities that a person has, and the kind of teaching and support they may have been given. When someone has dyslexia they have it for their whole life. Its effects can be minimised, however, by changing the ways the person works and learns, and with technological support.

Dyslexia need not be a barrier to achievement and success if it is properly recognised within society. Steps can be taken to provide suitable teaching and training, and those with dyslexia can learn strategies to compensate for their difficulties. There is evidence that many dyslexic people have strengths and abilities in tasks that involve creative and visually-based thinking.

**Example:** What causes dyslexia?

*no one knows*

1. What is dyslexia often mistaken for?

2. With what does dyslexia mainly cause problems?

3. Dyslexia comes from a problem in what part of the brain?

4. What else, other than intelligence, is dyslexia NOT related to?

5. What do individuals with dyslexia also often suffer from?

6. What is one thing that can minimise the effects of dyslexia?

7. What might a dyslexic person be particularly good at?

Total: 7 marks  
Total marks for Reading: 26